

Insert Publication Date

Dear Parent/Carer

**Orchard Park Nursery
Thornliebank**

Recently, as you may know, I visited and inspected your child's pre-school centre. During our visit, I talked to parents and children and I worked closely with the management team and staff. I wanted to find out how well children are learning and achieving and how well the pre-school centre supports children to do their best. The management team shared with us the pre-school centre's successes and priorities for improvement. I looked at some particular aspects of the pre-school centre's recent work, including the development of the outdoor area. As a result, I was able to find out how good the pre-school centre is at improving children's education

How well do children learn and achieve?

Children learn and achieve well. Across all the playrooms, children enjoy their nursery experience. They are happy and well settled. Children are enthusiastic about learning. Babies are gaining confidence through exploring a variety of natural materials. They enjoy listening and responding to music and songs. Children aged two to three play very well with each other and are learning to share and take turns. They particularly enjoy role-play activities and using the dressing-up clothes. Those aged three to five make choices about what the activities they want to play. They concentrate well on their chosen activity. Staff have made a positive start to asking children about their learning. They now need to build on this and support children to plan their own learning. Children are becoming increasingly independent through, for example, changing clothes for going outdoors and helping to tidy the playroom.

Children are making good progress in early language and mathematics. They talk confidently to each other and adults. Children are interested in books and listen well to stories being read. They enjoy practising their early writing skills both indoors and outdoors. Children show a good awareness of numbers and shapes. They can compare and describe the length and weight of everyday objects using appropriate vocabulary. Children develop their physical skills very well through energetic activities outdoors. They have a good awareness of the need to recycle materials and have achieved a silver award from Eco-Schools Scotland.

How well does the pre-school centre support children to develop and learn?

Overall, the nursery supports children to develop and learn well. Staff take account of national guidance to plan a broad range of activities for children. Those working with children under three provide opportunities which encourage children's curiosity. Staff working with children aged three to five are becoming more confident in using the experiences and outcomes of Curriculum for Excellence when planning children's learning. They now need extend ways for children to develop early literacy and numeracy skills across a broad range of activities. Staff make effective use of the outdoor area, visits and visitors to enrich children's learning. They interact very positively with children to develop their learning. Staff know children and families well. They have very positive relationships with parents and work very well with them to support children's learning. Staff are sensitive to children's social and emotional needs. They provide well-judged support to children who need extra help. Staff make observations of individual children's learning. They now need to make better use of observations and ensure activities are at the right level of difficulty.

How well does the pre-school centre improve the quality of its work?

The nursery has sound approaches to improving the quality of its work and is well placed to continue to improve further. Staff work very well as a team. They are committed to improving children's learning. The management team monitor the work of the playrooms and provide helpful feedback to staff during meetings. They now need to strengthen this and focus more on evaluating the quality of children's learning experiences. Staff reflect on the work of the nursery and take part in a variety of training activities. They respond well to advice and readily try out new ideas to help make learning interesting for children. Staff are improving approaches to gathering the views of parents and children and taking them into account when making improvements.

Our inspection of your pre-school centre found the following key strengths.

- Children who are motivated and enjoy learning.
- Improvements to the outdoor area to enrich children's learning.
- Staff teamwork in creating a positive and caring environment for children.
- Commitment of the management team and staff to improving the work of the nursery.

I discussed with staff and the education authority how they might continue to improve the pre-school centre. This is what I agreed with them.

- Improve approaches to planning and assessment, taking account Curriculum for Excellence.
- Continue to develop on approaches to self-evaluation to focus on improving children's experiences further.

What happens at the end of the inspection?

We are satisfied with the overall quality of provision. We are confident that the pre-school centre's self-evaluation processes are leading to improvements. As a result, we will make no further visits in connection with this inspection. The manager and local authority will inform parents about the pre-school centre's progress as part of the arrangements for reporting to parents on the quality of the pre-school centre.

Janie McManus
HM Inspector

Additional inspection evidence, such as details of the quality indicator evaluations, for your school can be found on the Education Scotland website at <http://www.educationscotland.gov.uk/inspectionandreview/reports/school/eyc/OrchardParkNurseryThornliebank.asp> .

Please contact us if you want to know how to get the report in a different format, for example, in a translation. You can contact us at enquiries@educationscotland.gsi.gov.uk or write to us at BMCT, Education Scotland, Denholm House, Almondvale Business Park, Almondvale Way, Livingston EH54 6GA.

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